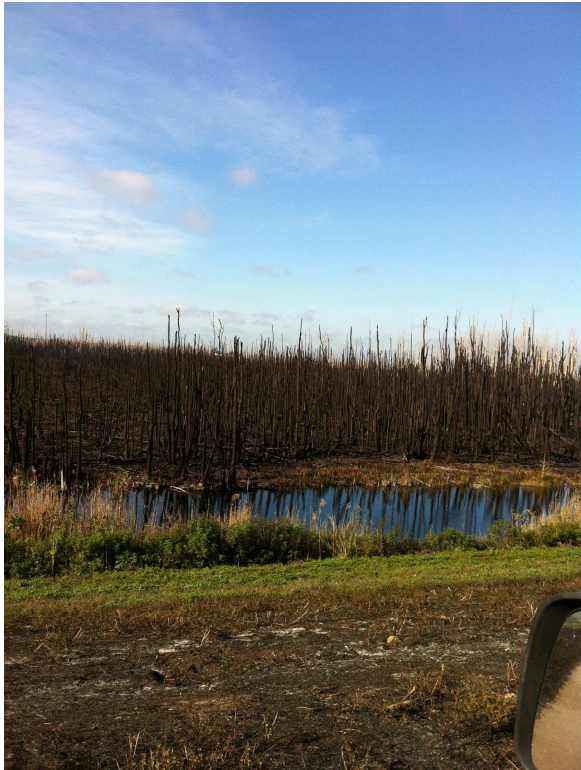


For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
February 24, 2012

FROM CITY MANAGER STEVE MCKOWN

Photographs of the aftermath of Wednesday's brush fire.



Wednesday afternoon a large plume of smoke arose northwest of town. The 750 acres of State land near the Lake had approximately 100 acres ablaze with a brush fire (this is the land with the dead Melaleuca trees that can be seen from the levy). Fortunately the winds were very favorable and pushed the fire towards the Lake. In fact, with no injuries or extensive property damage reported, the fire probably wound up being a good thing, as it reduced the fuel load of the area. The Clewiston Fire Department responded to the call and monitored the fire throughout the evening. It appears the fire is now 100% contained with only a few spots still smoldering.

Folks, I'd put our volunteer fire department up against any full-time unit in America! Our firefighters have extensive training and truly are the BEST! And, they do this while saving the taxpayers millions of dollars over what a full-time department would cost. Make sure when you see our firefighters around town that you take the time to thank them for the EXCELLENT job they do!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday, February 25th – 3rd Annual Susan G. Komen Rally for a Cure Golf Tournament
Sunday, March 18th @ 2:00 pm – Spring Sports Opening Day Ceremonies
Monday, March 19th @ 6:00 p.m. – City Commission meeting
Friday, March 23rd – Monday, March 26th – We Want Your Junk
Saturday, March 31st – Spring Cleaning
Friday, April 6th – Good Friday – City offices closed
Sunday, April 8th – Easter
Friday, April 13th – Saturday, April 14th – 26th Annual Sugar Festival

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- Code Enforcement has opened twelve (12) new cases, all for overgrown grass/weeds.
- Nine (9) cases were closed for compliance.
- An overwhelming number of nonconforming signs (70) were picked up from rights-of-way in one (1) day.
- We're seeing approximately a 25% increase in permit applications this year. Hopefully the trend continues.

Golf Course Director Pena reports:

- Preparations are well underway for this Saturday, Feb 25th for the 3rd annual Susan G. Komen golf tournament put on by the Clewiston Ladies Golf Assn. The field is full with 140 players scheduled to tee off at noon. Additional carts have been ordered as well as tables and chairs for the event.
- This past Thursday Twilight Golf Scramble had 19 players. The fun event was organized as Ladies vs. the Men. The Ladies came out victorious in a decision after the scores were tallied by the "committee" (Adolfo's wife) saying "Ladies 1st".
- In addition to regular play Sunday morning, we had 14 couples competing in a re-scheduled event from the previous week Valentine outing promotion (2 for 1).
- Counter top/sink renovations have been completed by volunteers in the Ladies locker-room.
- Two Toro diesel powered mowers (budgeted) to replace the bush-hog and a deck-mower have been ordered and are expected to be delivered on March 16th. The two units are pre-owned pieces of equipment but well-maintained.
- Soil recently removed from Cane Field re-sod renovation is being stockpiled for the course use as needed.
- The greens were sprayed Tuesday evening with insecticide (Dylox) to control grubs and mole crickets. This was a preventative measure as some activity had been spotted.
- The Moore Haven Terrier Boosters have booked their annual event for Saturday, April 21st. Contact Mike Pressley or Glades Co. Sheriff Stuart Whiddon for more details.
- New clubs from Taylor Made have arrived. Don't forget Taylor Made Demo Day on Tuesday, February 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- Don't forget to check out our calendar for other events and specials.

Library Director Tommerdahl reports:

- On Thursday, February 16, Ms. Maria visited Harvest Academy to present a Roaming Storytime. There were 15 children and 2 teachers present to hear two excellent stories.
- Mr. and Mrs. Bubbles visited Eastside and Westside Elementary Schools to present a One Book, One Community Special Clown program, on Thursday, February 16. There were 600 children and 20 teachers who enjoyed a wonderful time at this very special program.
- The next day, Friday, February 17, Mr. and Mrs. Bubbles visited Central Elementary School, to present a One Book, One Community Special Clown Program there. 250 children and 16 teachers took advantage of this opportunity for first class entertainment!
- On Tuesday, February 21, Ms. Maria visited Covenant Academy to present a Roaming Storytime. There were 20 students and 2 teachers present to enjoy two fine stories.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- The Fair seems to have run smoothly so far. We will have an exaggerated patrol available this weekend. Typically, if anything is going to happen, it will occur on the last weekend.
- The Explorers and Criminal Justice Groups provided a wonderful display booth. Hope you've had the opportunity to stop by.
- We had a disturbance at the ball fields Monday. A parent is alleged to have brandished a weapon towards one of the coaches. An arrest has been made and the investigation continues.
- We were able to catch someone in the act of vandalizing the levy park embankment. A young man was charged with careless driving resulting in property damages. The Corps of Engineers estimated damages between \$250.00 and \$500.00. Officers Nieves and Beatty handled the call.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 955** Residential / Security Checks
 - 512** Complaints Investigated
 - 15** Criminal Arrests Made
 - 90** Red Light Camera Violations
 - 42** Other Traffic Citations Issued
 - 88** Merchant Escorts Provided
 - 17** Alarms Responded To
 - 3** Traffic Accidents Investigated

Public Works Director Scheffler reports:

- The Sagamore project is moving forward with more sidewalk poured this week. We are working with residents along the way to make sure they have access to their properties.

- Delivery, setup and take down of event material after the Ag Expo, Chamber 5K Run and Hendry County Fair Parade went smoothly again this year.
- We got a call from Temple Display, the company refurbishing the “Bass” decorations this week. They reported they received our decorations and expect to return them in a couple of weeks. We will use LED rope lights and a new color scheme.
- The first meeting for this year’s Spring Cleaning is scheduled for 2:00 on Wednesday February 29 in the Operations Building at 1300 S. Olympia. All interested persons in this event are welcome join us.

Recreation Director Ramer reports:

- Work continues at Sugarland Sports Complex as sod has been placed around the bases on the small quad and top dressed and rolled. The goalie boxes on all the soccer fields have been sodded as well. The irrigation systems and electrical systems have all been checked. Scoreboards and concession prep, check and cleaning will begin next week.
- Player and Coaches uniforms, sponsor recognition signs/banners, league game schedules, concession stand cleaning, supply ordering and organization schedules, Umpire game assignment sheets and other documents are being finalized and distributed this week. Field maintenance supplies have been ordered and some were received this week in anticipation for the “OPENING DAY CEREMONIES” of the 2012 Clewiston Recreation Baseball & Softball season which will take place on Sunday, March 18th @ 2:00 p.m. on field #3 at the small quad. More information as it becomes finalized.
- CHS Tiger Baseball & Softball teams both travel to LaBelle for District games on Tuesday, Feb. 28th. Boys play at 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Ladies play at 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Good Luck TIGERS!!!
- The Clewiston Recreation Dept. continues to work with Sports Conductor on registration form modification, payment criteria and activity dates for this year’s “Summer Camp 2012”, so that parents may register and pay on-line. We intend on rolling out this project in Mid-March...
- Go to www.clewistonrecreation.com to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs.

Utilities Director McCarthy reports:

- IT Administrator Napoleon Key and Steven Hess at US Tekes worked most of the weekend to repair the server that crashed again on Friday night. Finance lost 3 days of work due to a corrupted backup and other word and excel files were lost that we are recreating. We are trying to wait for the new software system purchase to replace the server since our current vendor wants \$8000 to move the software. Napoleon, we believe, has solved the short term issue so that we should be ok for the short term.
- The Commission approved the LED street light grant modification so we will be placing the order for the rest of the fixtures this week so we can begin installing them as soon as possible. We still have an April deadline for completion.
- The sewer plant discharge pump has been rebuilt and reinstalled. John Hamilton is making the appropriate notices on our reporting since we have had 11 days of no discharges.